

**San Francisco Estuary Project
Implementation Committee Meeting**

Friday, February 6, 2004
10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Elihu M. Harris State Building, Oakland, CA

Draft Meeting Summary

The meeting began at 10:15 a.m.

1. **Introductions/Approval of November 7, 2003 Meeting Summary** - *Larry Kolb, Chair, Implementation Committee.* A round table of introductions was made. Minutes were approved as submitted.
2. **Public Comments. Any member of the public may address the Implementation Committee (IC) on any matter regarding implementation of the Comprehensive and Management Plan (CCMP). Time is limited to five minutes per person.**
 - A. Molly Martindale, US Army Corps of Engineers, said that the USACOE Special Public Notice for Mitigation and Monitoring Proposal Guidelines (12/31/2003) contained an error and will be redone. The website at www.spn.usace.army.mil/regulatory/ is a good resource for mitigation or acceptable compensatory mitigation procedures. After the corrected Proposal Guideline is released a new comment date will be scheduled.
 - B. Phil Bobel, Santa Clara Basin Watershed Management Initiative (SCBWMI), reported that two new documents about the WMI are now available to the public. A fact sheet defines the mission, regional setting, stewardship plan, watershed action plan and implementation strategy. The Santa Clara Basin Watershed Action Plan (August 2003) details the 8-point action plan "to protect and enhance Santa Clara Basin watersheds." When asked about local government involvement, Mr. Bobel said it was a challenge to engage planning officials, but they did have participation. Trish Mulvey reminded members that the SCBWMI acts as the SFEP South Bay Geographic Subcommittee, February 20th is the next SCBWMI meeting date.
 - C. John Brosnan, Wetlands Restoration Program, announced that the Design Review Group (DRG) is looking for projects to review. He clarified that the DRG has looked at conceptual projects.
 - D. Dr. Kolb apprised IC members of the Regional Water Board's concerns about "grazing", clarifying that grazing means cattle not sheep and possible impacts to creeks and habitat from cattle grazing. He suggested that this issue be brought to the Implementation Committee. Ms Martindale commented that discussions should include management as well as grazing practices. Ms Mulvey recommended that the Santa Clara Valley Mike Miller Ranch Park report be considered as a reference. Dr. Kolb is interested in locating "grazing" experts with diverse experience. Joe Dillon, NOAA Fisheries, will refer some individuals to Dr. Kolb.
3. **NOAA's Increasing Stewardship of San Francisco Bay - Steve Edmondson, NOAA Fisheries**

A report on activities and opportunities for collaboration:

 - A. Discussion: Mr. Edmondson provided the Implementation Committee with an overview of the NOAA Fisheries Service' goals and objectives for the San Francisco Bay. He covered the organizational structure including management, restoration, research, inter-office initiatives and program coordination activities. Mr. Edmondson said that agency's focus is on how do we want the Bay to look and what is the Bay's reference condition?

A number of questions were asked about sand mining. An 800 page study has been produced and is a large compilation of existing sand mining research projects. There are two major sand mining locations (e.g.: Central Bay near Alcatraz Island and Suisun Bay) and a question was asked if sand mining has been included in sediment budgets for the Bay. Dr. Kolb asked about the linkage between sand substrata and eel grass. Mr. Edmondson reported that NOAA's new Restoration Center has begun a new CALFED eel grass restoration program and commented that Eel grass likes some stability and the largest beds are in San Pablo Bay and Richardson Bay. He said there are many types of eel grass and they bloom in different times of the year. Anitra Pawley recommended that a good bathymetry of the whole Bay is needed as the existing data is 20 years old. Mike Connor would like to work with Mr. Edmondson on subtidal goals. Steve McAdam stated that sand mining and subtidal habitat will be the next big "train-wreck" considering the transportation development projects that are taking place. Two years ago BCDC produced a report that illustrated the need to conserve sandy bottom for unique species. Mr. McAdam noted that in order to authorize permits, information is required. Heather Gustafson noted that CALTRANS has formed a research working group on some of these issues.

Action: Rick Morat volunteered to look into the issues related to a sediment budget for the Bay and will bring information to the Implementation Committee.

4. California Bay-Delta Authority: Delta Implementation - Cindy Darling/Dan Ray, CBDA

- A. Pumping Capacity, Environmental Water Account, Water Quality Projects The CBDA is a collaborative effort of 23 state and federal agencies involved in water issues. The program has four resource management goals: water supply reliability, levee system integrity, water quality and ecosystem restoration. Ms Darling spoke about the South Delta Improvement Plan (SDIP), which allows for an increase in pumping from 6,680 cubic feet per second to 8,500 cfs. It also includes building new permanent flow barriers. Driving factors for the SDIP included: adequate protection of fish, possible effects of dredging, water quality, groundwater storage, the Central Valley Project Improvement Act, Southern California growth, Bay Area water needs, drought year concerns and water needs to meet existing state water contracts. In response to a question about land retirement being considered as a water quality tool, Ms Darling commented there had been an attempt to include this in the CALFED programs, but there was overwhelming opposition by agricultural stakeholders. When land is taken out of production, a definition is needed on who owns and holds the water rights. She commented there are two ways to allocate water in California, through the Public Trust Doctrine, which has included 30 years of litigation and an economic approach by giving incentives to farmers to sell land and their water rights. Other projects discussed included the financing of water projects (bonds and user fees); South Delta improvements, Central Delta improvements (Franks Tract); the "Napa Agreement"; and performance measures for fish production. It was noted that the salinity intrusions at Frank Tracts with a phased in approach are showing incremental improvements. Mike Monroe stated that the restoration of Franks Tract will be expensive and require significant engineering. He also commented that the Delta Wetlands studies indicates a weakness since there is not an obvious customer for water at \$800/foot. Mr. Smith asked about the availability of money from water bonds. Ms Darling said that money is still available from Proposition 13 and 50 water bonds. She also stated that the CALFED financial plan will be done this year and requires legislative action. Mr. Ray said that the salinity changes reduces the distribution of species and the inflow standards offer indirect protection of species.

Action: members agreed there should be further discussion on how these issues relate to CCMP implementation and possible impacts to the Bay.

5. SFEP Draft 2004-05 Work Plan and Budget - Marcia Brockbank, SFEP

Review and comment on draft plan/budget

Discussion: Ms Brockbank asked members to review the SFEP Work Plan and Budget included in the meeting packet. For 2004-2005 SFEP's \$12 million budget is made up mostly of contracts that require specific deliverables/products that implement the CCMP, and the only discretionary funding is the approximately \$500,000 allocated by Congress through EPA. Of this funding, \$300,000 is designated for staff and the newsletter and the remaining \$200,000 will fund the small grant program, the required ecosystem indicators work, and developing a financial plan for SFEP also required by EPA. Ms Brockbank asked for comments and priorities on the discretionary programs listed on pages 44-46 by the end of February or the first week in March. The recommended work plan and budget will be sent to the Executive Council for review, comment and approval. Luisa Valiela asked members to consider providing funds for a Bay Area Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP). An IRWMP will provide the required organizational structure for the 9 Bay Area county water agencies to qualify for Propositions 40 and 50 and federal funds. The IRWMP should be a single document defining a Bay Area watershed management plan. Water Agencies will contribute personnel and financial resources to develop actions that will assist them in carrying out an IRWMP in their jurisdictions. However, funds are needed to integrate existing watershed management plans (the CCMP, SCBWMI, the Basin Plan and others) into the IRWMP.

Action: it was agreed that the SFEP work plan should include language in the small grant task that would recommend providing funds for assisting with the development of an integrated watershed management chapter for the IRWMP. Members will submit their comments on the work plan and budget to Ms Brockbank by the first week in March.

6. Ecosystem Indicators and CCMP Implementation - Mike Connor (SFEI) and

Anitra Pawley (TBI) Dr. Connor said that the draft Ecosystem Indicators report needs reviewers. Funding for next year could come from the Bay Delta Science Consortium, if the Ecosystem indicators match the CALFED indicators.

Action: members interested in reviewing the Indicator Report should contact Ms Brockbank.

7. SFEP/CALFED Updates

A. SFEP Small Grants - Carol Thornton, SFEP Ms Thornton described some of the 18 projects of the 2003-04 Small Grant Program, which totaled \$92,500. The individual grants ranged from \$3,000 to \$8,000. A list of projects was included in the packet. A collection of products from the 2002-03 Small Grant Program was available for review.

B. Boater Education Program - Karen McDowell, SFEP. Dr. McDowell began her position as the Boater Education Program Coordinator on January 2004. SFEP participates in 3 boat shows a year (e.g.: Sacramento, Pleasanton and Oakland). Free boater education materials available to the public include the San Francisco Bay and San Joaquin & Sacramento Delta Pump Out maps, Clean Boating Habits booklet, Under Siege: Aquatic Invasive Species pamphlet and key chains. Over 3000 maps were distributed at the Pleasanton Boat Show. Dr. McDowell is conducting a survey of marinas to review pump out needs. Mr. McAdam asked if she was working with Clean Water Programs and the Coastal Conservancy and invited her to participate with the Coastal Commission and BCDC advisory committee.

C. CALFED Updates - Bob Raab, ABAG/CALFED Task Force/Jean Auer, SFEP
ABAG/CALFED Task Force: Mr. Raab is concerned about the survival of the ABAG/CALFED Task Force, because its funding has been suspended. Mr. Raab said that Ms Darling's Delta Implementation presentation was excellent. He was interested in

hearing about the impacts of the five CALFED water storage projects and the status of the science program.

8. **Items and Assignments for May 7, 2004 Meeting Agenda** - Larry Kolb/Chair, IC meeting at Vacaville Ulati Cultural Center, 1000 Ulati Street
- A. SFEP Work Plan and Budget
 - B. SFEI Report on Ecosystem Indicators
 - C. Cattle grazing, management and grazing practices
 - D. Possible Sediment Plan for San Francisco Estuary
 - E. Suisun Marsh Charter Plan
 - F. Possible impacts from CBDA Delta Projects on San Francisco Bay

9. **Announcements**

- A. Dr. Tuohy announced that Friends of the SF Estuary each quarter will focus on one aspect of the CCMP and will make recommendations to the Implementation Committee.
- B. Mr. Morat said that March 1-2, 2004, the Suisun Science Conference is being held in Sacramento.

10. **Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 12:45PM

<p style="text-align: center;">2004 Meeting Dates May 7, Vacaville August 6, Oakland November 5, Vacaville</p>
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